

Travel Guidance for County Employees

5/27/2021

This guidance is effective immediately and is consistent with current guidance first issued by the New York State Department of Health on 4/10/21 and reviewed by the Tompkins County Emergency Operations Center on 5/24/21. The goal of travel restrictions is to help to contain rates of COVID-19 transmission and protect County employees and the public from serious illness. All employees are required to take personal responsibility for compliance with this guidance in the best interest of public health and safety.

Definitions

- **Fully vaccinated** is defined as being 2 or more weeks after the final dose (e.g., first for Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, second for Pfizer and Moderna) of the vaccine approved by the FDA or authorized by the FDA for emergency use.
 - Vaccines that are not authorized by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use or approved by the FDA do not satisfy this definition.
- **Health Care Workers** include employees in the following titles: Health Department nurses, Mental Health nurses, Department of Social Services nurses, Jail nurses, Psychiatrists, Psychiatric nurse practitioners and Psychiatric social workers.

General Updates

- Both the Centers for Disease Control and New York State recommend delaying international travel until fully vaccinated.
- All employees must complete the [NYS Traveler Health Form](#) unless the traveler had left New York for less than 24 hours or is coming to New York from a contiguous state (i.e., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont).

Domestic Travel

All Employees, regardless of vaccination status, must:

- Monitor their symptoms from the day they return to New York through day 14;
- Attest to the County's Employee Health Screening prior to return to work in person;
- Continue strict adherence to preventative measures in the workplace such as hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, even if fully vaccinated; and
- Immediately self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing if any symptoms develop.

Domestic travel is defined as travel lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than contiguous states (i.e., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont). There is generally no quarantine, work furlough, or testing requirements for asymptomatic domestic travelers. Not fully vaccinated or unvaccinated employees are encouraged to get tested with a laboratory test 1-3 day before their return trip home to New York.

For Not Fully Vaccinated or Unvaccinated Employees:

- Quarantine is **optional but still recommended** after travel for unvaccinated employees who have not recovered from COVID-19 during the previous 3 months.

- The recommended quarantine period is either 7 days with a test 3-5 day after travel, or quarantine for the full 10 days without a test. It is recommended to avoid contact with people at higher risk for severe disease for 14 days, regardless of test result.

If an employee plans to voluntarily self-quarantine after domestic travel:

- Employees must notify their supervisor prior to traveling domestically.
- Employees who receive supervisor approval may be allowed to telework during the quarantine period after travel.
- If unable to telework during the post-travel quarantine period, employees must utilize their own accruals.

International Travel

All Employees, regardless of vaccination status, must:

- Monitor their symptoms from the day they return to New York through day 14;
- Attest to the County's Employee Health Screening prior to return to work in person;
- Continue strict adherence to preventative measures in the workplace such as hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, even if fully vaccinated; and
- Immediately self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing if any symptoms develop.

Employees who travel internationally must comply with all current [CDC requirements](#) for international travel.

Currently the CDC does not require quarantine, work furlough, or testing requirements for asymptomatic international travelers; however, not fully vaccinated or unvaccinated employees are encouraged to get tested with a laboratory test 1-3 days before their return trip.

The following exceptions apply in New York State:

- *Unvaccinated* health care workers who have not recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months must refrain from working in-person for 7 days with a test on day 3-5 after arrival in New York from international travel, or refrain from working in-person for 10 days if not tested.
- Fully vaccinated employees who have not recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months are *recommended* to get tested 3-5 days after arrival in New York from international travel.
- All *unvaccinated* international travelers who have not recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months are *recommended* to get tested 3-5 days after arrival in New York, consider non-mandated self-quarantine (7 days if tested on day 3-5, otherwise 10 days), and avoid contact with people at higher risk for severe disease for 14 days, regardless of test result.

If an employee plans to self-quarantine after international travel:

- Employees must notify their supervisor prior to traveling internationally.
- Employees who receive supervisor approval may be allowed to telework during the quarantine period after international travel.
- If unable to telework during the post-travel quarantine period, employees must utilize their own accruals.

